

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03800 231624Z

42

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ITF-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 EA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W

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O 231556Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3152

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3800

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF ICEM UNHCR

SUBJ: REFUGEES EX-INDOCHINA -- ICEM AND UNHCR

1. DURING PAST FEW DAYS HAVE MET SEPARATELY WITH ICEM DIRECTOR THOMAS AND UNHCR SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN TO DISCUSS RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND/OR REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES EX-INDOCHINA.

2. REFLECTING TONE OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND DISCUSSIONS IN DEPARTMENT, WE AGAIN EXPRESSED TO LEADERS THESE TWO INTERNATIONAL BODIES USG'S CONCERN OVER LIMITED RESULTS TO DATE IN TERMS THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT AND REPATRIATION AND NEED FOR SIGNIFICANT ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS SOONEST.

3. WHILE HCR PREVIOUSLY TENDED TREAT PROBLEM IN CAUTIOUS, THEORETICAL AND LEGALISTIC WAY, HE NOW SEEMS HAVE GOOD APPRECIATION OF USG'S CONCERN FOR ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF REFUGEES IN QUESTION AND NEED FOR PRACTICAL RESULTS. HE ALSO APPEARS RECOGNIZE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF UNHCR'S FAILURE TO MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITIES THIS SITUATION.

4. RESPECT REPATRIATION, HCR STATED THAT HIS REPS HAVE MADE REPEATED APPROACHES DURING PAST TWO WEEKS TO REPS' OF PRG IN GENEVA AND PARIS AS WELL AS DRVN IN HANOI FOR PURPOSE OBTAINING THEIR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 03800 231624Z

AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE REPATRIANTS IN VIETNAM. HCR REPORTED THAT

WHILE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RECEIVE REPATRIANTS UNDER UNHCR AUSPICES, MODALITIES FOR PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT NOT YET APPROVED BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES. REPORTEDLY LATTER MUST BE CLEARED DOWN TO LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCILS IN VIETNAM. HCR CONSIDERING EARLY ASSIGNMENT OF UNHCR REPS TO EACH OF FOUR REFUGEE CAMPS IN USA TO WORK WITH REPS ARC AND VOLAGS IN IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES FOR REPATRIATION AND TO FACILITATE THEIR MOVEMENT. UNHCR CURRENTLY AWARE ABOUT 1,000 VIETNAMESE DESIRING REPATRIATION AND OFFICE ESTIMATES THAT NUMBER COULD CLIMB TO 15,000 - 20,000. UNHCR INTENDS PURSUE EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS PRG AND DRVN FOR EARLIEST GREEN LIGHT FOR REPATRIATION.

5. AS FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES, HCR STATED THAT HIS OFFICE NOW OPERATING IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH ICEM IN EFFORT TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF ANY RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES GENERATED BY USG'S BILATERAL APPROACHES, UNHCR'S APPEAL, OR OTHER SPONTANEOUS OFFERS. INDICATIONS SUGGEST RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE TO THIRD COUNTRIES WHILE SLOW TO START COULD TOTAL ABOUT 10,500.

6. HCR EXPLAINED HIS INTENTION TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 5 OF PERMREPS IN GENEVA OF UNHCR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR PURPOSE REPORTING ON UNHCR EFFORTS TO ASSIST REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. AT THIS MEETING UNHCR WILL ALSO REPORT ON EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM INDOCHINA AND REPATRIATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN ANGOLA, GUINEA BISSEAU AND MOZAMBIQUE.

7. HCR INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AFTER JUNE 5 MEETING FOR PURPOSE REVIEWING UNHCR EFFORTS BEHALF REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA IF SUCH VISIT CONSIDERED TIMELY AND USEFUL. IN THIS EVENT HCR WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE, TO BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT FORD OR SECRETARY KISSINGER. CONCEIVABLY SUCH VISIT COULD HELP FOCUS ATTENTION ON INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER CALL ON PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

8. ICEM DIRECTOR THOMAS REMAINS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO PROBLEM AND RESPONSIVE TO ANNOUNCED RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES. HE REPORTS THAT ICEM TEAM ON GUAM FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY IN IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES FOR RESETTLEMENT, AND THAT ICEM REPS NOW VISITING REFUGEE CAMPS IN USA FOR PURPOSE SELECTING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 03800 231624Z

SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR PLACEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA. ICEM STAGING MEETING WITH VOLAG REPS IN GENEVA MAY 27 FOR PURPOSE ENCOURAGING VOLAGS TO ASSIST IN THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS.

9. BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT AND REPATRIATION ACTIVITIES FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA03800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-0072
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750524/aaaaavhh.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEES EX-INDOCHINA -- ICEM AND UNHCR
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, ICEM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006